

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 1-27 as indicated below. The following is a complete listing of claims and replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the present application:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A communication apparatus comprising:

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a multi-address transmission means for executing unit, which is adapted to execute a ring type multi-address transmission in a group of [[the]] communication apparatuses;

and

a determination means for making unit, which is adapted to make a determination as to specifying of the whether a ring type multi-address transmission is specified,

wherein, when the ring type multi-address transmission is specified, said multi-address transmission [[means]] unit memory-receives received data received by said communication apparatus and transmits the memory-received data to a next station after the data is actually printed out based on a print-out instruction issued according to a manual actuation of an operator.

Claim 2 (currently amended): A communication apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said multi-address transmission [[means]] unit transmits the memory-received data to the next station based on a specification from [[an]] the operator.

Claim 3 (currently amended): A communication apparatus according to claim

1 or 2, wherein said multi-address transmission ~~[[means]]~~ unit transmits the memory-received data to the next station after the data is printed out, based on a specification from the operator.

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Claim 4 (currently amended): A communication apparatus according to any one of claims 1 to 2, wherein said multi-address transmission ~~[[means]]~~ unit includes a selection means for selecting unit, which selects, based on a specification from the operator, transmission of the memory-received data to the next station; ~~alternatively or~~ transmission of the memory-received data to the next station after the data is printed out.

Claim 5 (currently amended): A communication apparatus designed to perform a ring type multi-address transmission by transferring received data to a next station, comprising:

a receiving means for receiving unit, which is adapted to receive data sent by ~~[[the]]~~ a multi-address transmission;

selection means for selecting transfer/non-transfer an instruction unit, which is adapted to issue an instruction on a transfer of the received data to the next station ~~based on instruction from a user~~; and

a transferring means for transferring unit, which is adapted to transfer the received data to the next station if the transfer to the next station is selected based on the instruction ~~from the user~~ by said instruction unit,

wherein said transferring ~~[[means]]~~ unit forcibly transfers the received data to

the next station if the ~~transfer to the next station is in an unselected state for a specified period by~~
~~instruction from the user~~ instruction by said instruction unit is not issued within a predetermined
period of time.

Claim 6 (currently amended): A communication apparatus according to claim
5, further comprising:

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a displaying means for displaying presence/absence unit, which is adapted to
display a presence or an absence of the received data;

a storing means for storing unit, which is adapted to store the received data;

and

a printing means for printing unit, which is adapted to print the stored data,

wherein,

if data sent by ~~[[the]]~~ a multi-address transmission is received, said storing
[[means]] unit stores a time of reception thereof, and said displaying [[means]] unit displays the
presence of the received data, and

said printing unit forcibly prints the received data if the ~~transfer to the next~~
~~station is in an unselected state for a specified period by instruction from the user, said printing~~
~~means forcibly prints the received data~~ instruction by said instruction unit is not issued within a
specified period of time.

Claim 7 (currently amended): A communication apparatus according to claim

5 or 6, further comprising:

~~a starting means for starting the unit, which is adapted to start a multi-address transmission; and~~

~~a registration means for registering unit, which is adapted to register data regarding the next station.~~

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Claim 8 (currently amended): A communication apparatus according to claim 6, further comprising:

~~an erasing means for erasing the transferred unit, which is adapted to erase the received data from [[the]] said storing [[means]] unit if [[the]] transfer of the received data is normally finished.~~

Claim 9 (currently amended): A communication apparatus according to any one of claims 6 and 8, wherein said printing [[means]] unit prints [[the]] a reception of the received data sent by the multi-address transmission and [[the]] a transfer of the received data to the next station ~~simultaneously when executing the forcible~~ forcibly printing [[of]] the received data.

Claim 10 (currently amended): A communication method comprising the steps of:

executing a ring type multi-address transmission in a group of [[the]]

communication apparatuses; and

making a determination as to ~~specifying of the whether a~~ ring type multi-address transmission is specified.

wherein, when the ring type multi-address transmission is specified, said multi-address transmission step ~~memory-receives received~~ includes memory-receiving data and ~~transmits transmitting~~ the memory-received data to a next station ~~after the data is actually printed out based on a print-out instruction issued according to a manual actuation of an operator.~~

Claim 11 (currently amended): A communication method according to claim 10, wherein said step of executing a ring type multi-address transmission step ~~transmits~~ includes transmitting the memory-received data to the next station based on a specification from ~~[[an]]~~ the operator.

Claim 12 (currently amended): A communication method according to claim 10 or 11, wherein said step of executing a ring type multi-address transmission step ~~transmits~~ includes transmitting the memory-received data to the next station after the data is printed out, based on a specification from the operator.

Claim 13 (currently amended): A communication method according to any one of claims 10 to 11, wherein said step of executing a ring type multi-address transmission ~~[[step]]~~ includes a selection step of selecting, based on a specification from the operator, transmission of

the memory-received data to the next station, ~~alternatively or~~ transmission of the memory-received data to the next station after the data is printed out.

Claim 14 (currently amended): A communication method designed to perform a ring type multi-address transmission by transferring received data to a next station, comprising the steps of:

receiving data sent by ~~[[the]]~~ a multi-address transmission;

~~selecting transfer/non-transfer~~ issuing an instruction on a transfer of the received data to the next station ~~based on instruction from a user~~; and

transferring the received data to the next station if the transfer to the next station is selected based on the instruction ~~from the user~~,

wherein said transferring step includes forcibly ~~transfers~~ transferring the received data to the next station if the ~~transfer to the next station is in an unselected state for a specified period by instruction from the user~~ instruction is not issued within a predetermined period of time.

Claim 15 (currently amended): A communication method according to claim 14, further comprising the steps of:

displaying ~~presence/absence~~ a presence or an absence of the received data;

storing the received data; and

printing the stored data, wherein,

if data sent by ~~[[the]]~~ a multi-address transmission is received, said storing step stores includes storing a time of reception thereof, and ~~said displaying step displays~~ the presence of the received data is displayed in said displaying step, and

~~if the transfer to the next station is in an unselected state for a specified period by instruction from the user, said printing step includes forcibly prints~~ printing the received data if the instruction is not issued within a specified period of time.

Claim 16 (currently amended): A communication method according to claim 14 or 15, further comprising the steps of:

starting ~~[[the]]~~ a multi-address transmission; and
registering data regarding the next station.

Claim 17 (currently amended): A communication method according to claim ~~[[14]]~~ 15, further comprising the step of:

erasing the ~~transferred~~ received data stored in ~~[[the]]~~ said storing step if ~~[[the]]~~ transfer of the received data is normally finished.

Claim 18 (currently amended): A communication method according to any one of claims 15 and 17, wherein said printing step prints the includes printing a reception of the received data sent by the multi-address transmission and ~~[[the]]~~ a transfer of the received data to the next station ~~simultaneously when executing the forcible~~ forcibly printing ~~[[of]]~~ the received

data.

Claim 19 (currently amended): A storage medium to store storing a computer program for the ~~implementation of~~ implementing a communication method comprising, wherein the method comprises the steps of:

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executing a ring type multi-address transmission in a group of [[the]] communication apparatuses; and

making a determination as to ~~specifying of the~~ whether a ring type multi-address transmission is specified

wherein, when the ring type multi-address transmission is specified, said step of executing a ring type multi-address transmission step ~~memory-receives received~~ includes memory-receiving data and ~~transmits~~ transmitting the memory-received data to a next station after the data is actually printed out based on a print-out instruction issued according to a manual actuation of an operator.

Claim 20 (currently amended): A storage medium according to claim 19, wherein said step of executing a ring type multi-address transmission step ~~transmits~~ includes transmitting the memory-received data to the next station based on a specification from [[an]] the operator.

Claim 21 (currently amended): A storage medium according to claim 19 or 20,

wherein said step of executing a ring type multi-address transmission step transmits includes transmitting the memory-received data to the next station after the data is printed out, based on a a specification from the operator.

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Claim 22 (currently amended): A storage medium according to any one of claims 19 to ~~21~~ and 20, wherein said step of executing a ring type multi-address transmission [[step]] includes a selection step of selecting, based on a specification from the operator, transmission of the memory-received data to the next station, ~~alternatively or~~ transmission of the memory-received data to the next station after the data is printed out.

Claim 23 (currently amended): A storage medium storing a computer program for implementing a method designed to perform ring type multi-address transmission by transferring received data to a next station, comprising wherein the method comprises the steps of:

receiving data sent by [[the]] a multi-address transmission;

~~selecting transfer/non-transfer~~ issuing an instruction on a transfer of the received data to the next station ~~based on instruction from a user~~; and

transferring the received data to the next station if the transfer to the next station is selected based on the instruction ~~from the user~~,

wherein said transferring step includes forcibly ~~transfers~~ transferring the received data to the next station if the transfer to the next station is in an unselected state for a

specified period by instruction from the user instruction is not issued within a predetermined period of time.

Claim 24 (currently amended): A storage medium according to claim 23,
wherein the method further comprising comprises the steps of:

displaying ~~presence/absence~~ a presence or an absence of the received data;

storing the received data; and

printing the stored data, wherein,

if data sent by ~~[[the]]~~ a multi-address transmission is received, said storing step stores includes storing a time of reception thereof, and ~~said displaying step displays the~~ presence of the received data is displayed in said displaying step, and

~~if the transfer to the next station is in an unselected state for a specified period by instruction from the user~~, said printing step includes forcibly prints printing the received data if the instruction is not issued within a specified period of time.

Claim 25 (currently amended): A storage medium according to claim 23 or 24,
wherein the method further comprising comprises the steps of:

starting ~~[[the]]~~ a multi-address transmission; and

registering data regarding the next station.

Claim 26 (currently amended): A storage medium according to claim ~~[[23]]~~

24, wherein the method further comprising comprises the step of:

erasing the ~~transferred~~ received data stored in ~~[[the]]~~ said storing step if ~~[[the]]~~

transfer of the received data is normally finished.

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Claim 27 (currently amended): A storage medium according to any one of claims 24 ~~[[to]]~~ and 26, wherein said printing step ~~prints the~~ includes printing a reception of the received data sent by the multi-address transmission and ~~[[the]]~~ a transfer of the received data to the next station ~~simultaneously~~ when ~~executing the forcible~~ forcibly printing ~~[[of]]~~ the received data.